

Listing of Claims

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for causing a first client system to enable a user to access a first
3 database ~~a plurality of databases through a plurality of client systems contained~~ in a
4 manufacturing plant, wherein said first database ~~each of said plurality of client systems~~ is
5 ~~already~~ designed to be accessed using a second interface implemented in a second client
6 system but not implemented in said first client system, wherein said first client system and
7 said second client system are comprised in a plurality of client systems, access data in only
8 ~~some of said plurality of databases~~; wherein execution of said one or more sequences of
9 instructions by one or more processors contained in said first client system causes said one
10 or more processors to perform the actions of:

11 executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing
12 process in said manufacturing plant;

13 enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

14 enabling said user to specify said first database as a database of interest and a search
15 criteria using said user interface, ~~wherein a second client contained in said plurality of client~~
16 ~~systems is already designed to access data in said database of interest;~~

17 sending said search criteria to said second client;

18 receiving a corresponding response; and

19 displaying said corresponding response.

1 Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an
4 operation associated with data ~~forming~~ contained in said corresponding response, said
5 multiple client systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and

6 executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

1 Claim 3 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein said user
2 interface is implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user instantiates
3 said user interface, further comprising:

1 receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and
2 sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to
3 said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

1 Claim 4 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein said data
2 representing said response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database
3 of interest.

1 Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for enabling a new user application to access data in a plurality of
3 databases accessible through a plurality of client systems, wherein each of said plurality of
4 databases is accessible by a corresponding interface which is potentially implemented by only
5 some of said plurality of client systems such that each of said plurality of client systems is
6 already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of databases, wherein said new
7 user application and said plurality of client systems are related to operation/control of a
8 manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said computer readable medium comprising:
9 means for implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface,
10 wherein said first plurality of procedures ~~can be~~ are implemented on a second client system
11 contained in each of said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures
12 enable retrieval of desired data from a ~~corresponding~~ first database accessible from ~~the~~
13 ~~corresponding~~ said second client system; and
14 means for access which can be instantiated from said new user application executing
15 on a first client system which cannot access data in a said first database, ~~wherein said first~~
16 ~~database is accessible through a second client system~~, wherein said first client system and
17 said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems,
18 _____ wherein said means for access enables a user to specify said first database and a
19 search query, ~~wherein said first database is contained in said plurality of databases~~, wherein
20 said means for access uses said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client
21 system according to said first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

1 Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 5, further
2 comprising means for implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second
3 interface, wherein said second plurality of procedures enable said new user application to
4 initiate and terminate an instance of said means for access.

1 Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 6, further
2 comprising means for implementing a third plurality of procedures according to a third
3 interface wherein said third plurality of procedures enable said means for access to
4 communicate an operation selected by said user, wherein said operation is executed on data
5 accessed by said means for access.

1 Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein
2 said operation is executed on said second client system which retrieves said data from the
3 corresponding database.

1 Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a new user application to access
2 data in a plurality of databases accessible through a plurality of client systems, wherein each
3 of said plurality of databases is accessible by a corresponding interface which is potentially
4 implemented by only some of said plurality of client systems such that each of said plurality
5 of client systems is already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of
6 databases, wherein said new user application and said plurality of client systems are related
7 to operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said method
8 comprising:

9 implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface on each of
10 said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures are implemented on
11 a second client system contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said first
12 plurality of procedures enable retrieval of desired data from a ~~corresponding~~ first database
13 accessible from ~~the corresponding~~ said second client system; and

14 providing an access module which can be instantiated from said new user application
15 executing on a first client system which cannot access data in a said first database, ~~wherein~~
16 ~~said first database is accessible through a second client system,~~ wherein said first client

17 system and said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein
18 said access module enables a user to specify said first database and a search query, ~~wherein~~
19 ~~said first database is contained in said plurality of databases,~~ wherein said access module uses
20 said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according to said
21 first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

1 Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, further comprising
2 implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second interface, wherein said
3 second plurality of procedures enable said new user application to initiate and terminate an
4 instance of said access module.

1 Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 10, implementing a third
2 plurality of procedures according to a third interface wherein said third plurality of
3 procedures enable said access module to communicate an operation selected by said user,
4 wherein said operation is executed on data accessed by said access module.

1 Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11, wherein said operation is
2 executed on said second client system which retrieves said data from the corresponding
3 database.

1 Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a first client system to access
2 a first database ~~a plurality of databases through a plurality of client systems contained in a~~
3 manufacturing plant, wherein said first database ~~each of said plurality of client systems~~ is
4 ~~already~~ designed to be accessed using a second interface implemented in a second client
5 system but not implemented in said first client system, wherein said first client system and
6 said second client system are comprised in a plurality of client systems, ~~access data in only~~
7 ~~some of said plurality of databases;~~ , said method comprising:

8 executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing
9 process in said manufacturing plant;

10 enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

11 enabling said user to specify said first database as a database of interest and a search
12 criteria using said user interface, ~~wherein a second client contained in said plurality of client~~
13 ~~systems is already designed to access data in said database of interest~~
14 sending said search criteria to said second client;
15 receiving a corresponding response; and
16 displaying said corresponding response.

1 Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, said method further
2 comprising:

3 enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an
4 operation associated with data ~~forming~~ contained in said corresponding response, said
5 multiple client systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and
6 executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

7 Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein said user interface is
8 implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user instantiates said user
9 interface, said method further comprising:

10 receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and
11 sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to
12 said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

1 Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said data representing said
2 response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database of interest.